

Never esteem anything as of advantage to thee that shall make thee break thy word or lose thy self-respect. —MARCUS AURELIUS.

If the board of inventors could only invent a way to rid the navy department of Josephus Daniels!

Mr. Bryan says that Lincoln, Neb. is the finest place of residence in the world and the Wilson people hope nothing will occur to call Mr. Bryan away from home.

In time of peace, when Republican treasury statistics used to show a legitimate trade balance in our favor of half a billion a year, we did not have to lend our foreign customers the money to pay what they owed us.

Mr. McAdoo has not given any opinion regarding the proposed billion-dollar loan for the allies, but it is a fair argument from all the antecedent evidence that he thinks it would be better to let the southern cotton planters have the money without interest.

There is a striking parallel of method between the German and the Mexican negotiations. In both are found the same mental operations, the same indefiniteness and the same pusillanimity. Bryan used to be blamed for the Mexican policy. But Bryan has gone, while the methods remain. Wilson also remains. Are these methods his? Have they always been his?

The Houston Post, referring to the Columbia state's desire to have Mr. Taft elected an honorary member of the Democratic party, defines an honorary Democrat as one who is permitted to vote the ticket but not to hold office. We think this definition a little lacking in truth. An honorary Democrat is a colored voter in a southern state who is permitted to put a Republican ticket into the ballot-box and have it counted for the Democratic candidates.

Warfare in Maryland.
The political warfare which is raging between the two Democratic senators from Maryland has produced, in its first battle, a victory for Senator John Walter Smith. He has defeated Senator Blair Lee for the nomination for the governorship.
The Smith candidate, however, will now be knifed at the polls and retaliation will be taken on Senator Lee when his term in the Senate expires, as it will in 1917. The warfare will extend to the national ticket as well—and Maryland may be put down in the Republican column for the time being, at least.

South is Favored.

The federal reserve board is overwhelmingly Democratic and it is dominated by southern Democrats at that. Accordingly, it is no great surprise to find the South appearing as the chief beneficiary of the board's operations. The rediscounting of commercial paper is the chief means of making the federal reserve system available for and useful to business men.
In July the total sum rediscounted was \$16,238,200. Of this the three federal reserve banks in the southern cities of Richmond, Atlanta and Dallas took exactly sixty-four per cent of the whole. Richmond alone taking thirty-two and nine-tenths percent, or almost one-third of the total rediscounting done for the entire country.
The federal reserve system was widely heralded as being a national undertaking. A rude shock was administered to this theory when the board was made up and when the reserve service, were selected. Further repudiation of the national idea is being developed from month to month as the board's operations are made known. The federal reserve system is being worked to the limit for the benefit of the South.

Presidential Sentimentality.

The New York Sun very correctly slaps slithering sentimentality upon the wrist in regard to the presidential office and General Goethals. It shows, in the following editorial, that the general could do much better by completing the world-epochal task in which

he has so gloriously engaged himself than by jumping into the political arena.

The subtitled series of extracts from the daily news is incomplete, but so perfectly representative that its obvious suggestiveness is unpaired.

"Washington, Jan. 4—There is a prospect that conditions in the Culebra cut will remain uncertain for a considerable period owing to serious slides in that part of the canal.

"Panama, March 6—Another slide of earth from the top of the Culebra cut has closed the canal to all but lighter draught ships.

"Panama, April 8—Another slide at Culebra cut has tied up the canal.

"Washington, May 10—The slides continue in the canal.

"Washington, June 1—Engineers are of the opinion that one great slide in the Culebra cut will in all probability be the last movement of the kind.

"Panama, July 18—The most serious slide ever known on the Panama canal, which has been under way for several weeks, partly moved into the Culebra cut this afternoon, closing the cut to large vessels.

"Panama, Aug. 7—All traffic was stopped today by another slide in the Culebra cut.

"Panama, Sept. 5—Kroonland and Finland blocked in Culebra cut. The canal authorities say that the channel will be cleared within two days.

"Panama, Sept. 19—Worst slide yet blocked canal. The channel is completely closed to navigation."

Into this record of slide blocked traffic and unblocked slide, of depreciation, explanation and general botheration, insert from the news reports of September 23 this scintillating passage:

"Mr. Perkins was reminded of Chairman Murdock's having mentioned General Goethals as a possible presidential candidate for the Progressives. 'Is General Goethals a Progressive?' he was asked.

"Well, Mr. Perkins fired back, 'he built the Panama canal, didn't he?'"

"We do not imagine the name of the next president of the United States will begin with 'G' and end with 's,' with six letters between."

But if General Goethals, the "progressive" ditch digger, is to become a candidate and be elected in 1916, it can be appropriately accomplished by nothing less than the sort of movement which is picturesquely called in political slang "a landslide."

General Goethals has a man's lifetime job on the isthmus, and when the final conquest of Culebra is achieved, as the country expects it to be, the presidency will be too small a thing to tempt the commander in chief of the triumphant shovel brigade and the navy of mud scoops.

Trade Balance Will Turn.

Whether the United States can hope to hold its place as the leading export nation of the world, is a problem now receiving the attention of the business men of America. It was the European war that gave the United States its present preeminence. What will happen when the war shall close is the great question which very properly causes anxiety among men who are financially interested in the continuance of that partially restored prosperity now prevailing in some sections of the country.

Men who are accustomed to dealing with conditions, rather than theories, and who build on reasonable certainties, rather than on possibilities, do not overlook the fact that in July, 1914, just before the outbreak of the European war, there was a very alarming balance of trade against the United States. They will not forget that the balance of trade turned against us soon after the "tariff-for-revenue-only" policy was decided upon by the election of a Democratic administration and that it was only the conditions developed by the European war which turned the tide in our favor.

Will the balance of trade turn against us again when the cause which turned it in our favor has been removed? Most business men are answering this question in the affirmative, believing that since it was "war orders" that formed the basis of a favorable trade balance, that balance can continue only so long as the war shall remain a factor in international commerce.

There are several facts which no one disputes:

First, the call of millions of men in Europe from industrial activity to military operations decreased production on that continent.

Second, the war not only decreased production abroad but destroyed many products already manufactured, and created new and enormous markets.

Third, the only large producing nation ready to supply the commodities most in demand by reason of the war was the United States; hence this country received a greater part of the war orders.

Fourth, as soon as the armies of Europe are disbanded, those millions of men will return to manufacturing and other productive enterprise.

Fifth, European nations will be impoverished, and the United States, as a result of its large favorable trade balance, will be the only country in a position to buy extensively.

Sixth, as a consequence of high prices paid by buyers of war equipment, wages in many American industries have been increased, and when European producers again begin activity the American producer will be thrown into competition with factories paying the lowest scale of wages, while American mills pay the highest.

The foregoing facts present a situation which the business men of Amer-

ica must meet, and they are now giving it most careful thought. It is a situation which will confront not merely large manufacturers of the country, but every farmer, merchant, mechanic, and laborer who depends for a livelihood upon the general prosperity of the nation.

THE DAILY NOVELETTE

THE MEASURE OF A MAN.

I wished to go Maying,
But May was too cold;
While June offered sleighing,
In places I am told.

The rain did a tango,
Through August, I vow,
But maybe I can go,
October now.

The tailoring establishment of Underdown, Overup and Ko was very busy that morning, but Mr. Underdown himself found time to run to the door as the distinguished looking stranger entered.

"I'd like to be measured for a suit," he said. "And I am particular."

"Certainly! By most means!" replied Underdown. "I will measure you myself, sir."

And he drew forth his tape measure and called out the stranger's measurements each by each, while Mr. Overup stood by and potted them down stolidly.

Inseam, 79.
Cross-hatch, four and half plus.
Across the bridge, 50.
Etc., etc., and etc.

"That finishes it, sir," said Mr. Underdown at length. "And if I do say it myself, no tailor in the city can touch us as to measurements."

"So I have been told," remarked the stranger, as he deftly snatched the measurement card out of Mr. Overup's hand and put it in his pocket. "And that's why I came to you. You see, my wife can make me a perfect suit of clothes, but she don't know how to measure. Thanks, gents."

THE SEARCHLIGHT

Latest News from the Fields of Science, Education and Invention.

A NEW PAPER PULP TREE.

A tree recently discovered in South America has proved capable of producing a better grade of paper pulp than any wood grown either in the United States or Europe. The

tree is a member of the family of the rubber tree, and its bark contains a large amount of rubber.

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Swedish paper expert who discovered it gave it the botanical name of *Aracaria* *indiana*, although a shorter cognomen will likely be devised for trade uses.

The department of agriculture of the United States commissioned an engineer to investigate this new paper resource. He has sent in a description of a single area in Argentina, amounting to 1,470,000 acres which is well covered with these trees. It is claimed that one of these trees, of average size, will produce a ton of fine paper pulp.

Its value for this purpose has been totally unrecognized heretofore. Argentina with this wealth of material at hand importing paper and cardboard amounting to a million dollars annually for the last five years.

TRAVELETTE

By Elsie.

COLON.

There is nothing about Colon to inspire poetry. It consists in a miscellaneous aggregation of shapeless frame shacks, planted on a flat bit of land in an angle between Fox river and Limon Bay. Uncompromising ugliness, complicated by an amazing variety of more or less pestilential odors, is undoubtedly the keynote of the greater part of Colon.

The two-story frame houses in which most of the population lives are built as close together as they can be set. There is nothing picturesque or typical about them. Most of them are occupied by several families of various shades of black, brown and yellow. The streets are narrow and muddy. They swarm with jabbering negro men, gaudy wenches of various colors and children as naked as the day they were born.

This is Colon outside the zone. Cross the railroad tracks which mark the line and you are in quite a different place. Here is a group of the little bird-cage, screened houses of the canal employees, set each one neatly on its bit of lawn like a cheese pawn on its square, with a couple of dignified cocoanut palms nodding thoughtfully above it. Here the giant docks that Uncle Sam built reach out into the blue bay, and all of the great steamship companies have built themselves neat little offices, finished in buff and red to match the government structures.

Colon is the great port of the Isthmus of Panama. Here come the great vessels from all parts of the world that are to traverse the canal. From here, too, is carried on picturesque traffic in rubber, cocoa and ivory puts, with parrots and monkeys as a sideline, between the firms at Colon dealing in these things and the Indian tribes of the coast of Panama.

There are twelve page girls in the Martha Washington hotel. They all dress alike in white aprons and little caps and when they are not answering the call of "front!" they sit in a row near the information desk and chat in an undertone just like hall boys do.

Paging women is in some respects more difficult than paging men. Of course the girls do not have to go through barrooms and cafes, but they do have to go down the corridors to the minniners, the dressmakers, the hairdressers and the manicures.

They page by room number and name in the Martha Washington. Using the two together helps fix the identity quicker than to use only the name.

This is the open season for the lithe lubed athletic youths who know how to skate. Theatrical managers are potting them. While the mercury hovers around ninety

skating ponds are being frozen in New York theaters.

It looks like it will be a busy season for young men who can cut the Philadelphia twist, the Pittsburgh stogie, the Cincinnati pretzel and do other stunts on the ice in the shadow of canvas alps and glaciers.

The ice palace idea has broken out simultaneously in several places in New York and many managers have purchased ammonia outfits and are piping frost on their stages. The Hippodrome, Waldorf and a two-story rink on Broadway will have private ice ponds.

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